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PRESENTMENT

of the

SIXTH ESSEX COUNTY GRAND JURY OF THE 1978 TERM

concerning drug abuse among school  
age children in the County of Essex,  
State of New Jersey

MALCOLM B. MERKLINGER, FOREMAN  
Sixth Essex County Grand Jury  
1978 Term

DONALD S. COBURN  
ESSEX COUNTY PROSECUTOR

RICHARD M. ROBERTS  
ASSISTANT ESSEX COUNTY PROSECUTOR

Members of the Sixth Essex County Grand Jury of the 1978 Term:

1. Malcolm B. Merklinger, Foreman
2. Mrs. Carmella Towey, Deputy Forelady
3. Mrs. Nereida C. Dobson
4. Vincent Ciriello
5. Miss Gail M. Piserchia
6. Roosevelt Smith
7. Mrs. Sarah Sacher
8. Miss Caroline Valentino
9. Miss Mary B. Bowers
10. Mrs. Ann Lempert
11. Stanley Broda
12. Thomas J. O'Kane
13. Miss Marie P. Mulligan
14. Edward J. Bodek
15. Mrs. Theresa Meehan
16. Thomas J. Gallagher
17. Anthony Cocchi, Sr.
18. Charles F. LaVerda

19. James B. Johnson
20. Anthony S. Giansanti
21. Mrs. Helen L. Brieger
22. Mrs. Joanne Dambrowski
23. Harry H. Wemischner

CHARLES L. KAMPS, JR.  
DIRECTOR OF ESSEX COUNTY  
GRAND JURY

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INTRODUCTION

On November 8, 1978, this Grand Jury was charged with the responsibility of determining whether or not a condition of drug abuse exists in our county school systems.

We, the members of this Grand Jury, are lay people who constitute a cross-section of the population of Essex County. We are black, white, rich, poor, conservative, moderate and liberal. We have no motive whatever to state our mind except to reveal the truth and to report to the public the facts as we perceive them. While digesting two months of testimony, our emotions have run the gamut from shock to disbelief, anger, fear and finally resolve; resolve to alert the public to the danger that is facing our society; resolve to make meaningful recommendations; resolve to insist that our voices be heard.

We have discovered that a serious drug problem exists among the young people in our county, and that this problem has increased significantly during the past two years. We find children of incredibly youthful age involved with drugs. The problem exists in our school system and our schools must share in the responsibility. However, we have determined that the situation extends far beyond the schools. It extends to the very core of our society. The problem and the corresponding responsibility involves the media,

law enforcement, the business world, and perhaps most important, the quality of family life itself.

We all share the responsibility for the problem, and share the obligation to find a solution as well. We see too often examples of society's failures: the school principal who is blind to his students' use of drugs; the media which too often projects a glorified drug scene while failing to understand the effect on impressionable minds; the politicians who fail too often to speak out loudly enough, concerning the problems of our young; the parents who all too often don't care enough about their children to understand their problems, to help them and to love them.

It appears the drug problem in this county is typical of what is happening to our young people throughout the nation. The drug problem nation-wide is insidious and on the increase. The drug problem among the young is a national problem. The lack of recognition and the inability to coordinate corrective efforts are a national disgrace.

We understand the financial pressures affecting all levels of government, and that economic sacrifices must be made. We know of the great issues both domestic and foreign that confront this nation at this time. We know that all of our problems cannot be solved overnight, that some sort of priorities must be

set; but we ask, what priority should there be concerning the youth of our nation? What is the priority for the health and welfare of our future generations?

Drug abuse transcends all ethnic, economic, racial and social lines. This issue should and must unite us all. We have enough faith in the American people to believe that if we attack any problem together, no problem can withstand our concerted efforts. The future of our society must be the primary priority. If we do not address ourselves to our youth now, we fear that their future and our future as a great and progressive society may be greatly jeopardized.

#### BACKGROUND

Over the past two decades, particularly since the drug explosion of the early 1960's, young people of school age have been involved to some extent with the drug culture. Increased drug abuse was noted among some school age children during the 1960's and in 1970 mandatory drug education was enacted by the New Jersey State Legislature to counteract the growing drug problem.

Over the past five years a complacent feeling developed among educators and public officials that the drug situation among school age children was on the decrease. During that period of time, however, law enforcement officials, drug experts and some school administrators knew in fact, that a dramatic explosion of drug abuse among our young was occurring. It seemed easy for officials to sweep the problem under the rug and to ignore the facts. The public often assumed that the matter was under control.

There were periodic police drug raids among the young people that should have sounded a warning, but was, in fact, generally ignored.

It was virtually impossible to initiate investigations into specific schools without the direct request of those schools and until 1978 such request was not forthcoming. Then in 1978 Bloomfield High School and Irvington High School officials, approached the Essex County Bureau of Narcotics and Controlled Dangerous



Substances and requested assistance. They indicated their feeling that there was a serious drug problem in their high schools and asked that investigations be initiated as soon as possible. The Essex County Bureau of Narcotics and Controlled Dangerous Substances placed undercover agents in those schools and determined that a serious drug problem did, in fact, exist. As a result of numerous undercover drug purchases and general intelligence gathering, it was determined that drugs such as marijuana, amphetamines, barbiturates, mescaline, LSD, quaaludes and cocaine were all available to the student bodies. The facts pointed to the probability that the situations in the schools of Bloomfield and Irvington were typical of all schools in Essex County. This information and belief led to the empaneling of this Grand Jury.

During the course of the investigation, officials of the East Orange Board of Education requested assistance in determining the extent of the drug problem in the East Orange High School. An undercover agent was placed in the school and determined that the drug problem in East Orange was similar to that of Bloomfield and Irvington in that most types of drugs were available to the student body and that marijuana smoking was overt and pervasive in and about the school building.

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The Grand Jury has heard from over 117 witnesses, including school officials from virtually all of the school systems within Essex County, law enforcement personnel, undercover investigators, students, parents, and drug experts. The witnesses, including drug experts from the Federal Government, have painted a clear and convincing picture of drug abuse not only in the County of Essex, but in the country as a whole. The situation has caused this body to ponder the fate of our educational and social systems, and has further caused us to proceed with this presentment with the greatest of concern as to its reception by the public.

What follows is an effort on our part to alert the public to the great danger in our midst and to ask the public for its total understanding and commitment.

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1. NOTE: Students, parents, school officials, law enforcement officers, judges, doctors, and drug experts have all testified before this Grand Jury. We feel it is important that some of their testimony be read verbatim and some witnesses will be quoted on the following pages. Because of the necessity of adhering to strict legal standards concerning Grand Jury investigations, their names will be omitted.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

Question: "Can you give a guess if you can based on what you have seen (what) the percentage of students are smoking marijuana on a daily basis at (the high school)?

Answer: Yes, I can sir, I would say in my opinion approximately 30% of the students going to the (high school) smoke marijuana constantly.

Question: In the high school?

Answer: In the high school that's correct sir.

Question: Do you know if any students are going to class high?

Answer: Yes they are, I have seen them acting erratically.

Question: Do you often see marijuana cigarettes on the floor (of the high school)?

Answer: Yes, I do very often everyday.

Question: Where do you make this observation?

Answer: Normally in the early morning as I am walking around the building picking up paper and there is evidence of partially smoked marijuana cigarettes lying all around the ground.

Question: Is this in the interior of the school?

Answer: This is on the outside. I have also observed partially smoked marijuana butts in the hallway."

Question: "Would you say this is a large amount of butts you find?

Answer: Yes, yes.

Question: If anyone went into that (high school) today would they be likely to make observations of butts on the floor?

Answer: Yes, they would."

(the above testimony was from a Bureau of Narcotics undercover investigator posing as a janitor in a suburban Essex County high school.)

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Question: "Do you feel that there is a significant amount of smoking of marijuana in the school during the school year?"

Answer: Not in the school, no."

Question: "Do you feel that outside of the school there is an extensive use of marijuana by the students?"

Answer: No, I don't think there is an extensive use."

(the above Grand Jury testimony was from the principal )  
(of the suburban Essex County high school made reference )  
(to in the above quotes from the undercover investigator.)

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Question: "What about the school administration. What do you think their policy is as far as you are concerned (about drug abuse among their students)?"

Answer: They know about the problem but they don't do anything about it.

Question: How do you know they know about the problem?

Answer: Like I said, there is so many people that get high in the school and they are aware that they do it. For example, when students give blood, they make an announcement in homeroom, and they say to make sure nobody goes out and drinks or gets high because they know everybody gets high."

(former student, suburban Essex County high school)

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We have heard testimony from superintendents, principals and head masters of all the school systems in the county. While the majority have appeared to be well-educated, well-spoken and well-meaning in their comments, we have been saddened and sometimes incensed by the lack of understanding and insensitivity to the drug problem by others. There seems to be a reluctance on the part of some educators to come forward and admit that a drug problem exists in their school system. There appears to be a lack of concern about the problem even when recognized by other educators, and occasionally, there is a total lack of recognition or willingness to admit that even the slightest drug problem exists in their school system. There is often a conflict of opinions as to the extent of the drug problem in the same school system between superintendents and principals of that system.

We have debated and agonized over what course to take concerning the educators who we feel have at least partially failed the people in their responsibilities towards our young.

What must we do, for example, with a principal who comfortably claims that there is little or no marijuana use in his school while an undercover agent is daily collecting partially smoked roaches (marijuana cigarettes) in great abundance from the halls of that high school? What must we do with a principal and superintendent who readily admit that public relations take

precedence over any investigation that might determine the extent of a drug problem that might exist in the school? What must we do with junior high school principals who when presented with documented facts that drug abuse is wide-spread in the high school that their students will eventually attend, express only "mild interest"? We have heard testimony that this type of behavior is common on the national level as well, that educators are often reluctant to admit a drug problem exists under the misconception that the lack of recognition will save their reputation as well as the reputation of the school and community. As much as we recognize the great harm in this type of thinking, our aim here is not to be punitive, but purposeful--purposeful in our desire to warn and alert the people to the great danger that our society is facing. We demand that the persons charged with the responsibility for the education of our children understand that they, as well as the rest of us, all share in the understanding of drug abuse and all share as well the responsibility to eradicate that problem.

School administrators and educators must see that while they are not solely responsible for first identifying, and then finding cures for the drug problem of our young, their responsibility is great. But in order to properly address themselves to the problem, they must first recognize and admit the problem exists.

Operating under the aforesaid premise we have decided that while the conduct of some school administrators has been totally unacceptable in their approach to the problem and some administrators names and attitudes should be individually reported to the public, we feel the greater good will be better served by the presentment as you see it. The crisis is now; the time to act is now; the time for all facets of our society to unite is now. We do not want to alienate or to divide or to waste time in bickering. But be aware; this county is being warned. Drug abuse is in every town, every district, and every school. We demand the attention of school administrators and educators to the problem. We commend and applaud the efforts of the Bloomfield High School, Irvington High School and East Orange High School Administrations who had the intelligence to appreciate their problem and the fortitude to do something about it. Yes, it was discovered that serious problems existed in Bloomfield, Irvington and East Orange High Schools. But to those who feel those schools are unique, you are mistaken and our children are suffering for your mistake. As each semester passes your lack of recognition and action is affecting more and more of our children. The drug problem of our young is a county, state and national problem. We have heard from all the schools in the county, most private

and parochial schools, all Newark high schools; Belleville High School; James Caldwell High School, West Caldwell; Memorial High School, Cedar Grove; Clifford J. Scott High School, East Orange; East Orange High School; Glen Ridge High School; Livingston High School; Columbia High School, Maplewood; Millburn High School; Montclair High School; Nutley High School; Orange High School; Verona High School; West Essex Senior High School, North Caldwell; West Orange High School; Mountain High School, West Orange; Bloomfield High School and Irvington High School and we have determined that they all have a distinct problem. There is little or no difference in the drug problem in all Essex County schools, between Bloomfield and Nutley, West Orange and Irvington, West Essex and James Caldwell and the Oranges and Newark. Throughout the country other states are facing the increasing drug problem among our young people. The persons responsible for the education of our youth must understand what is happening in our schools. School vandalism and crime are on the increase. The level of reading and math ability of students entering college are often incredibly poor. Surely educators must recognize that drug abuse must contribute to the problems of our young.

The time for administrators and educators to understand and recognize their responsibilities to the community in reference to student drug abuse has long since past. The problem must be met wherever and whenever it is recognized. We hereby put all administrators and educators in Essex County on notice: you



have a problem; you must address yourselves to that problem and this must be done immediately.

Question: "One of the phenomenon that we've been exposed to here (in the Grand Jury) is that we have superintendents and principals coming before us who appear to be totally unaware of the problem or maybe covering up the fact that there is a problem. There has been countless testimony by students from the schools and police (who) have indicated that use of drugs is wide spread. Do you find it or have you had an opportunity to observe this kind of thing nationally?

Answer: Yes, we have had an opportunity to observe it nationally and in my own neighborhood... It is difficult I think for a school administrator one, to make that admission because of the implication of community censure, as though he somehow is personally to blame for the existence of drugs in the community and secondly, I think the students try very hard to keep him believing he has no problem because it is easy for them to deal with the school situation when there is no attempt to address the fact that drugs, and I would add alcohol, are presently in the schools. Both groups benefit from not admitting to each other that this situation exists."

(Official, National Institute of Drug Abuse)

## SCHOOLS

NOTE: All of the testimony below concerns separate suburban high schools in the Essex County system.

Question: "Does marijuana smoking take place in school during school hours?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Is it covert or overt?

Answer: Pretty much overt. There are times you can walk through sections of our school and smell the fumes coming out of the bathroom or the hall, sometimes in the stairwells or in the hall.

Question: Is it common to see people smoking in the bathroom or in the hallways?

Answer: Yes, I can't really say for sure about the bathrooms but in the hallways it's really common."

Question: "If a student came to school, his first day of the term, or as a transfer student, how long would it take him to make a connection for pot?

Answer: About half an hour.

Question: How would he go about it?

Answer: You ask students who maybe look like they smoke pot or you go to a bunch of people who are smoking pot and ask them."

(student currently enrolled in suburban Essex County high school)

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Question: "Did you deal in the school...., the high school?

Answer: Sometimes, because in there, you can get rid of everything, there is just so much pot and drugs going

through the high schools. As the years go on it seems to get worse. Kids are starting in 5th, 6th not so much 7th grade anymore."

(former student, drug dealer, suburban Essex County high school)

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Question: "Did you make a contact to purchase drugs (when you first came to school)?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Was that hard to do?

Answer: No, it was pretty easy.

Question: How did you go about doing that?

Answer: I asked who had it and then they said any number of people go up and ask them."

(former student, Essex County suburban high school)

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Question: "What kind of situation did you find in (your high school) when you came concerning the use of drugs?

Answer: It was a lot easier to obtain drugs in (that high school) than where I came from and the atmosphere was easier.

Question: What do you mean?

Answer: It was obvious that it was readily available, no problems or hassles, nobody stopped you.

Question: Was this evident to you when you first came to school?

Answer: Yes, it was right in the open. I found everybody doing it."

(former student, suburban Essex County high school)

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Question: "When you first started buying drugs, did you buy them from other students or persons from out of school?"

Answer: Both.

Question: Did you find it difficult to locate somebody to buy drugs from?

Answer: No.

Question: How did you go about trying to find somebody?

Answer: I would just ask.

Question: Anybody?

Answer: Just about. Somebody had to know somebody and eventually you would find it."

(current college student, former suburban Essex County high school student)

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Question: "In other words, there was also discussion during class about narcotics?"

Answer: A lot of discussion.

Question: How prevalent was this kind of activity, was it the normal thing to go into the class and see people exchanging money and drugs?

Answer: Yes, it was, in fact, they spent more time discussing narcotics than they did in the classroom."

(undercover Essex County Bureau of Narcotics detective discussing drug activities in suburban Essex County high school.)

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Question: "What is your impression, first, of the general drug problems throughout the City of Newark?"

Answer: Well, it's really in a state of chaos, the general drug problem throughout the City of Newark, and mainly the high schools, at least five or six of the high schools are really---it's just outrageous, the problem. It's a pathetic thing when you really look at it and nothing's really being done. You got a handful of people trying to modify it in some kind of way. Their hands are tied, you know.

Question: First of all, what drugs do you find that are being used in the high schools?

Answer: Marijuana, coke, speed, codeine, and you got a few other synthetics, a lot of pills. I don't know the names of most of the pills, but what is on the uprise is coke. Marijuana's always been the problem, and hard drugs you find every once in a while, but speed and one on one, the speed and codeine and coke is on the rise in the Newark school system."

(Security investigator, Newark Board of Education)

While we recognize that the drug abuse problem of our young is a social problem and not the sole responsibility of our school systems, our schools naturally serve as a meeting place for the young of the community. It is unfortunately true that very often this common ground serves as a main marketplace for drugs. We find that the use of drugs before, during and after school, on school grounds and in the school itself is dramatically increasing. The use of drugs among school children is extending to lower and lower grade levels at an alarming rate. There is evidence that even eight and nine year olds are both dealing and using drugs.

Persons this young involved in the drug culture have not been evidenced in previous years. The school society has become the natural focus of attention for those among us who would use and distribute drugs. Drugs are distributed on school grounds. They are distributed in school during school hours. Drugs are used in school bathrooms, hallways, cafeterias and on school grounds. Children are going to class high on the effects of drugs.

The major drug of abuse today is marijuana. It is abused in all the major high schools of the county. We have heard testimony from principals, undercover officers and students, including those who use and distribute narcotics. We have seen films of students getting high on marijuana before and during school hours. The use of marijuana during school hours has become an accepted fact.

There is evidence the use of marijuana in the schools may be accepted as a way of life by some teachers just as it seems to be accepted as a way of life by some adults among the adult population. It would be sheer foolishness on our part to assume that no teachers smoke marijuana. Indeed, we have had testimony that some may have been smoking with their students. It would be just as foolish for us to assume that these teachers have not let their inclinations and attitudes towards marijuana be known to their students. It would be foolish for the people of this

county to believe that the general attitudes of acceptance of the use of marijuana by and, among adults, has not had a serious effect on the attitudes of our young. The attitudes of at least those that receive a great deal of organized publicity, the easy availability of marijuana, the lack of viable deterrents and basic lack of recognition and understanding of the problem have all contributed to the epidemic of marijuana use among our young.

While we have found that marijuana use among students during school exists at an unacceptable rate in all of our public high schools, the evidence concerning private and parochial schools is less clear. While we do have indications that the student use and the increasing drug situation is identical to that of the public schools, the evidence is less convincing. Some reasons for lack of clarity of the drug problem in some smaller schools may be because of the smaller student population, (which is easier to control), a lack of recognition of the problem by administrators, or simply a lack of hard evidence presented to this body.

The fact remains that drug abuse in school during school hours, particularly that of marijuana, is a fact of life in all schools in Essex County. While marijuana is certainly the major drug of abuse in our school system, most other drugs are easily

accessible. Students are using quaaludes and cocaine at an increasing rate. There is some indication that cocaine is challenging marijuana as the most popular drug used in school, partially because it is less easily detected than marijuana.

In the school marketplace almost any drug is available. We have no doubt, after carefully considering the testimony, that the use of drugs in our schools is tragic. While these words are easy to say, it is sometimes difficult to translate the facts into real human emotions. We only wish that all of those who read this report could have had the opportunity as we did to view young people who testified how they used, bought and sold drugs in school, and remained high for a great deal of time during their school experience. We hope you can imagine the human tragedy of a young person who seems to have lost his way.

We have heard school administrators lamely state that to stop drug abuse in the school would simply cause it to be moved to the outside. This attitude by an administrator is as dangerous to the needs of our children as is a dose of heroin. The first step may well be to remove the use of drugs from the school environment. We must not allow drugs of any kind to be used by school children in school during the school day. This is an obligation of school administrations who must not deny that



responsibility. Drugs must be kept out of the schools or the schools will become havens for drug abuse.

Question: "Does anybody worry about the fact that they are breaking the law and they can go to jail?"

Answer: They feel protected in school.

Question: They feel protected in school?

Answer: Nobody would think that they would do it in school, go outside for a little while, pop a pill or something and go back in, take a drink of water and go to class."

(former student - suburban Essex County High School)

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We must face up to the fact that, because of its very nature, the school is the natural focal point for bad as well as good. Administrators must recognize that drugs are being used in their schools. Society must understand that the first step in eradicating the problem is to recognize its existence. School officials who recognize the problem of drug abuse and implement steps to cure the problem must be applauded. Their efforts must be met with understanding and sympathy by the community they are serving.

Question: "Do you know any of the parents of your friends who smoke or use drugs?"

Answer: Yes.

Question: Do you know what their attitude is about it?

Answer: You would be surprised. A lot of parents get high. So if they get high, how can they tell their kids not to."  
(former student, drug dealer, suburban Essex County high school)

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(A superintendent of an Essex County suburban high school,) (when discussing parents' attitudes towards drug abuse )  
(cited the following example: )

"For example, a child in a junior high school was found with marijuana in his possession. Called into the principal's office. We went through the regular routine with the principal...but when we called the parent in, this was a mother, the mother scolded the child, really scolded the child in front of the principal. The principal thought he was getting some support until the last sentence and the last sentence was something like, 'you idiot, you know that your father and I smoke pot, but we are too smart to get caught.'"

"I am told that once in a while we have some arguments between father or between parent and child as to who stole whose supply of pot."

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Question: "Have you observed different types of reactions from parents when the children are brought before you (on drug charges)?"

Answer: Yes, some are stunned and shocked by the whole situation and some overly defensive and will say everybody is doing it and there are others who just don't care."

(Judge, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, County of Essex)

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Question: "Do you find that there is a significant percentage who don't seem to experience any interest or concern about it (drug use among the young)?"

Answer: We have not hid it in our town at all. What we found is there are people who are not aware, and once they become aware they are beside themselves. They are very concerned and want something done. I think it is important to educate the people as to what is going on and what is happening, and once they are aware of it, they will all want to do something about it."

(Official of local Conference of Parents.)

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The present generation has come to look at drugs, especially marijuana, as an accepted and integral part of their developmental process. Most parents have failed to recognize the problem and, therefore, have not addressed themselves toward any solution. They are confused and often appear frightened and helpless in the face of increased drug abuse. Some are astounded that a problem even exists and most feel alone and afraid when they are confronted with drug abuse among their own children. We find that most parents lack any real knowledge of drugs in general. Most are ignorant as to the extensive use of drugs among the young. Often they fail to recognize the situation even when their own children are deeply involved. There often appears to be a general apathy concerning their own children's problems. Drug use among children often is part of a life problem of the youngster which is sometimes ignored or in some way even caused by the insensitivity and/or unattentiveness of their parents.

Many of today's parents are products of the drug explosion of the sixties and many of today's parents used or still use marijuana. Parents must recognize that while the thirty year old might be able to use marijuana moderately and still function, a twelve year old could find that same use life destructive. There is evidence of parents sharing the marijuana stashes with their children and even smoking marijuana with their children.

Those examples of parental behavior toward marijuana smoking by their young are certainly not typical of most parents in any community. It is typical, however, of an attitude that is on an increase among the adult population. It is an example of a deteriorating situation that is affecting the education and development of our young. That type of parental misbehavior is not only unconscionable but totally irrational and unforgivable. It shows a real lack of understanding and concern for their children.

Many other parents may realize their children are involved with drugs but feel helpless to deal with the situation. They must be brought to understand they are not alone; they do not represent an isolated case; they share a common dilemma.

Parents have not participated nearly enough in the few programs that have been available to them. Parents certainly have not devoted enough time and effort towards the solution of the increased use of drugs among their children. No matter what educational programs are madated by the legislature, no matter what efforts and programs are initiated by school officials, no matter how many drug pushers are arrested by police, all these efforts will fail to eliminate drug abuse among our young without the concern, love, and active involvement of parents.

We find the persons responsible for narcotic law enforcement and juvenile law enforcement in local police departments in this county to be concerned and sensitive to the needs of the community. It is readily apparent that they are often able to recognize the danger of drug problems among our young, often in the face of the refusal of others to do so. We find, however, that a serious situation exists in this county whereby the number of police personnel involved in narcotic work is inadequate to effectively do the job. In most municipalities, drug enforcement is handled by the detective bureau which must at the same time be involved in all other police investigatory operations leaving little or no time for effective drug enforcement. We recognize that the drugs sold by pushers eventually reach our young children. While major efforts must be directed towards education as a means of eliminating the drug problem among our young, we demand that law enforcement continue its efforts towards eliminating the suppliers of drugs from among our young.

We have unfortunately determined that all too often the ranks of narcotic detectives tend to be demoralized. They must be confronted with revolving door justice where persons arrested on drug charges are often out on the streets before the police reports are even written. They are often not consulted or even

alerted as to the disposition of criminal cases they have spent weeks of effort in making. They are confused as to the state of narcotic laws and are sensitive to the fact that they are often looked upon as the "bad guy", while simply attempting to do the best job they can. Most youth transactions are student to student. However, we do recognize that the supply of drugs does come from the adult population. We must continue and intensify our efforts to eliminate the supply of drugs that are poisoning our youth.

Greater trust and cooperation must be developed by the police and school personnel and society as a whole. Society must understand that law enforcement personnel are not a group separate and apart, but are an integral segment of that society. Police officials must have the help and cooperation of all elements of the community. They must have cooperation and understanding of school officials and parents in their efforts to eliminate drug trafficking.

## MEDIA

We are a nation that is bombarded daily from coast to coast by the media. We read newspapers, magazines and journals. We listen to radio and watch television and motion pictures. Many of the shows and movies, articles and advertisements are geared towards our young people. Young people make up a significant percentage of our population and represent a significant part of the public's buying power.

We are very much concerned with the media's effect on the life styles of our youth. The media acts as trendsetters.

The media, generally speaking have ignored the situation of drug abuse among our young and in often glamorizing the drug trade have, in fact, encouraged drug abuse. We do not wish to in any way indicate that we are demanding legislation or controls of any kind on the use of the media. We understand and support our constitutional freedoms which are so important to the maintenance of our great nation. We do, however, wish to report that motion pictures that glamorize the drug industry, television personalities who regularly treat the drug scene as an accepted way of life, magazines and newspapers which run advertisements for drug paraphernalia, are without question harming many of our young people.

The media, along with the rest of society, share in the responsibility of the health, welfare and education of our youth. The media must understand, along with the rest of us , the great danger of drug abuse among our young.



We commend the effort of the National Broadcasting Company and Edwin Newman who produced the recent important film on youthful drug abuse entitled "Reading, Writing and Reefer." We feel this type of program is tremendously important as a warning to our society. We hope more of this type of programming will be offered in the future and hope that the media recognize their great influence on our young and stand behind our efforts to eradicate the drug problem.

## DRUG EDUCATION

We find the current standards of mandatory drug education set forth by the State of New Jersey in N.J.S. 18A:4-28.5 to be wholly inadequate. We find the current voluntary educational efforts in the County of Essex to be woefully lacking in effectiveness. The New Jersey statutes require that on or after January 15, 1971, each school district having secondary school grades incorporate into its health education curriculum, the recommended drug unit for a minimum of ten hours per year as part of the health education curriculum. The statute further provides that summer work shops be set up to train selected teachers to teach a drug education program to secondary school teachers. Said work shop should also be for the purpose of developing a curriculum that should be taught at the secondary school level. This program was to be given only from September through December, 1970. The statute further provides that drug education training programs be established for teachers and school districts containing secondary schools. Other sections of the statute concern themselves with the preparing, performing and implementing the programs and curriculum provided. Most schools conform only to the bare minimum as set forth.

All drug subjects are integrated within health courses mostly at the high school level, although there are some being taught at the upper levels of elementary school. The lower grade levels are being totally ignored. Some schools have sporadic drug lectures

by experts, or have assemblies concerning drug education; this is voluntary and totally void of plan or direction. Most experts agree that this approach has little or no effect. It is further recognized by experts that drug education as now formulated has little, if any, effect on high school or junior high school students. The majority of these students have already experimented with drugs and those who will use drugs in high school have already formed habitual drug behavior.

It is obvious that the drug education in Essex County has been a failure. Drug education as it exists has not prevented the drug explosion. The system has failed and must be revised.

#### MOST COMMON DRUGS OF ABUSE

We feel it necessary to comment on the most common drugs of abuse among our young people. The following pages indicate what drugs are being used and the effects they have on our young.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Question: "Staying with marijuana for the moment, do you find the use of marijuana now extending to the younger children of the system?

Answer: Yes, very definitely so, as a matter of fact, recently we have been receiving more reports from the elementary and secondary level as opposed to the high school level which has been so in the past.

Question: How young do you find students will smoke marijuana?

Answer: Fourth grade.

Question: How old would that be?

Answer: Excuse me?

Question: How old would a fourth grader be?

Answer: How old would a fourth grader be, eight years, or nine years old."

(Official, office of Drug Education, Newark Board of Education)

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Question: "Did you smell marijuana when you walked into the bathroom?

Answer: Yes, you can't breathe, you wait until you get home to go to the bathroom.

Question: How many of your friends smoke marijuana?

Answer: All of them you know, most of them.

Question: What ages are your friends?

Answer: You know, fourteen, my age, you know, some are older some that I know are older are in high school."

(Student currently enrolled in suburban junior high school in Essex County)

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smoking marijuana?

Answer: Twelve

Question: Could you tell us how that came about, how you were first introduced to it?

Answer: I was in school and I was in 7th grade. There were like the 9th grade's were, you know, always getting high in the bathroom and everything, and a few times, me and a friend, a couple of friends of ours went upstairs to the bathroom and they were always trying to get us to use it, but we were always afraid and one day we just took it, you know, tried it. Everybody liked it, kept on doing it. Since then we just moved up from pot to one thing to another more or less graduated."

(Former student, suburban Essex County high school)

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We find the use of marijuana among our young to be open, notorious and pervasive. It is accepted by the young as part of their culture, indeed, as part of growing up. What is even more dangerous is that marijuana use among the young is viewed as part of their culture by some adults. While estimates do vary, as many as 90% of a typical student body may have tried marijuana by the time their high school class graduates. While habitual use appears to be less, 11% by some estimates, 20% by others, a more precise definition of "habitual use" is required. Given the fact that 50% of the THC content (the active ingredient of marijuana) of the marijuana cigarette remains in the body three days after the smoking of one marijuana cigarette, habitual may mean as little as three cigarettes a week. This fact would undoubtedly raise greatly the percentage of students who are habitual users.

Of greater concern is the fact that marijuana is becoming more and more visible among junior high school and elementary school children. What is more unfortunate is that marijuana sale and distribution is common and accepted among most students.

We do not want to fall back upon the original paranoia that affected this country when marijuana use was first recognized. We feel a serious mistake was made at that time because of exaggerations of the harm that marijuana might do. We do, however, feel that a greater and more serious mistake has been made in the trend that followed where marijuana was acquitted as harmless, especially in its effect on the development and education of young people. We have been dealing with juveniles; and the comments concerning marijuana apply to juveniles. We recognize that even those among us who would legalize or decriminalize marijuana agree that no child should smoke marijuana.

We accept the fact that marijuana should not be placed in the same category as such hard drugs as heroin, angel dust, and amphetamines. We recognize that the use of marijuana does not physiologically lead to the use of these other drugs. We do find that among teen and pre-teenagers marijuana may be devastating to the psychological growth and development of the individual, devastating to the point of effectively removing that young person from the productive mainstream of society. The adolescent years are an extremely difficult and important time in a person's development. There are tremendous pressures brought to bear on

the young person even under ideal circumstances, and the attempt to cope with these difficult times, or to have the development interfered with by marijuana can cause tragic consequences. We understand that while we are not in a position to gauge what minimum and long-range harm can be done, it is apparent some juveniles can smoke marijuana moderately and still be able to apparently function normally. Many others, however, cannot use marijuana without disastrous effects. The tragedy is that until marijuana is used, one cannot judge which juvenile can handle it and which cannot. Just as tragic, is the fact that the youngster who is unable to cope with the effects of marijuana often cannot recognize his dilemma until it is already too late.

While we recognize that marijuana does not physiologically lead to the use of harder drugs, the use of marijuana, especially in a juvenile setting, does put a person in touch with the drug culture in general. A youngster dealing in marijuana may often be dealing in other drugs such as cocaine and amphetamines. The youth who buys marijuana from a dealer may be introduced to other dealers who deal in harder drugs. We find the above to be especially significant among teen and pre-teen youth inasmuch as most drug deals are from student to student and friend to friend. The names and locations of drug dealers are well known among students and are easily accessible. Further, because of the intermingling of drug dealers and the easy accessibility of the dealers

and their wares to teenagers, peer pressure is often applied upon the young to try different drugs.

We understand that many adults have tried and are, in fact, smoking marijuana. Many are doing so while believing marijuana use is not affecting their abilities to act as normal functioning adults. These people must be made to understand that marijuana use among young people is an entirely different affair. They must understand that marijuana use among our young may be the most dangerous situation we have faced as a nation in many years.

In discussing the effects of marijuana as a mind-altering drug, Director of Psychiatric Services, in a major New Jersey hospital states:

"I think in young people, though, the issue is much more hazardous because of the susceptibility of a young person to any such alteration. It is susceptible of a young person going through an adolescence, who is going through the changes of adolescence and the stresses of adolescence and the discoveries of adolescence and the insecurities of adolescence in relation to himself and his identity. He is much more vulnerable to such alterations than an adult whose life is more routinized, whose goals and directions are more fixed. The experience with mind-altering substances or feeling-altering substances are much more seductive and influence the adjustment of a young person to a much greater extent, his ability to produce goals, his ability to relate to other people, his ability to postpone gratification and the pursuit of a life direction. He is much more susceptible to influences of those areas which are far less regularized than they would be for an adult. So the effect of marijuana for example would be much greater. The effect of his life-style would be much greater, or could be much greater. The potential for a much greater effect or lasting effect on a young person is different than in an adult."



## COCAINE

Question: "How prevalent is cocaine?"

Answer: How much is there in the area?

Question: Yes.

Answer: A lot, it is good access.

Question: Are kids starting to use cocaine more than they have in the past?

Answer: Oh, definitely, yes. It is a big thing. I think it is pushing pot aside, cocaine steps in.

Question: Can you give us an estimate of what percentage of kids are doing coke up in school now?

Answer: On a regular basis or just involved?

Question: Both tried it and regular?

Answer: I would say almost everyone who is -- 75 percent of the school.

Question: Have tried it?

Answer: Yes.

Question: And how many are using it regularly that you would guess?

Answer: It is just about the same, maybe a little less; 60 percent, maybe, regularly, more than half."

(Former student in suburban Essex County high school)

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Cocaine use among our young is increasing dramatically. There is evidence that in some quarters it may be surpassing marijuana insofar as popularity is concerned. One reason for its increased use is that it is less observable, especially in a school setting

than marijuana. This increased use of cocaine among our young in some respects mirrors the increased use of cocaine by the American society in general. Cocaine is one of the drugs that is being glamorized by the media. This glamorization has contributed greatly to the acceptance of cocaine among teen and pre-teenage children. Cocaine is a mind-altering drug and must not be allowed to be used by adolescents. The dangers are great; the losses are unacceptable.

The common misconception concerning the use of cocaine is that it is nonaddicting. However, a distinction must be made between psychological and physiological addiction.

"The physical effects of cocaine withdrawal are minor. This has led many authorities, mistakenly, to classify cocaine as a nonaddicting drug. However, cocaine withdrawal is characterized by a profound psychological manifestation - depression - for which cocaine itself appears to the user to be the only remedy; cocaine addiction in this respect resembles tobacco addiction more closely than it resembles opiate addiction or alcoholism. The compulsion to resume cocaine is very strong.

Moreover, cocaine addiction can lead to a severe psychosis while the user is still on the drug. This is in contradistinction to the opiate withdrawal syndrome and to the delirium tremens of alcoholism or barbiturate addiction, which set in hours or days after the drug is withdrawn."

(The Consumers Union Report, 'Licit and Illicit Drugs', pg 276)

## PILLS

Question: "What other drugs did you notice if any were available when you came to your (high school)?"

Answer: On any given day you could get ups or downs or speed, acid, cocaine or opium."

(Former student, suburban Essex County high school, upon first entering that high school)

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Question: "What percentage of kids use pills?"

Answer: About the same as that who use pot. Almost all of the people have tried them, if not used them all the time.

Question: You say many have tried, is it a smaller percent who use it on a regular basis?

Answer: I think 80% (of those who use pills) every day or every other day.

Question: Are they readily available?

Answer: Yes, the same as pot."

(Former student, suburban Essex County high school)

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Question: "What about pills, uppers and downers. Is there much of that?"

Answer: I think in the last two years there has been an upsurge in the use of pills. There is a certain group of people who would rather do that in school than smoke marijuana.

Question: What are the common pills that they might take?

Answer: Quaaludes, secOnals, those are pretty much the kind."

(Student currently attending suburban Essex County high school)

We find that youthful use of pills has either remained constant or increased over the past two or three years. Amphetamines can be purchased by young people without any difficulty from students or adult dealers. Amphetamine dealers are often the same people who deal in marijuana. Quaaludes are becoming more popular among the young, a reflection of this drug's increasing popularity among adults. Speed, mescaline and LSD are still available to young people. Barbiturate use, apparently, is on the decrease. In the drug marketplace of our young, however, barbiturates can be secured if the desire is there.

The problem of pill use among our youngsters is compounded by the easy accessibility of certain drugs made available in the medicine cabinets of their own homes. Very often a pill such as Valium or Darvon taken from the family medicine cabinet is the first introduction of a youngster to the drug culture. Amphetamines, quaaludes and hallucinogenic drugs are some of the most serious crippers of our young people and must be recognized as such. To see a youngster high and out of control on any of those drugs is a heart-rending experience that must be seen to be believed. We have seen that situation depicted in films before this jury. We are certain that if parents and youngsters could observe the same situations and understand the tragic consequences of pill use, such use would decrease dramatically.

ANGEL DUST

"We are having a tremendous problem with PCP's (Angel Dust). I am reasonably sure as well PCP is a drug that induces the most severe paranoia I have ever seen in kids. I am a witness to a twelve year old kid being taken to a hospital in San Francisco after ingesting PCP in a marijuana cigarette and I want to tell you I personally don't want to see anything like it again as long as I live."

(Official, House Select Committee on Drug Abuse)

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Question: "Can you tell us a little bit about the effects of phencyclidine, commonly known as angel dust?"

Answer: Well, this is a very dangerous substance that has become quite available. We have seen a number of cases in the past year of phencyclidine intoxication. Phencyclidine is used now as an anesthetic agent in veterinarian practice. In humans, it produces extreme agitation, altered perception of reality, distorted perception, sometimes with full-blown delusions and hallucinations. It is physiologically very dangerous and its use is associated with extreme increase in blood pressure, leading in some cases to a hypertensive crisis and death. It also can suppress respiration and lead to death in that way."

(Director of Psychiatric Services, a major N. J. Hospital)

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Angel Dust, as it is commonly known, or phencyclidine, its generic name, is an animal tranquilizer that is becoming popular in the drug scene throughout the country. It is being brought into this area at an increasing rate and is being produced in the state by clandestine laboratories. Efforts to locate and destroy these laboratories is of a very high priority of the federal Drug Enforcement Administration. One of the greater dangers of angel dust is

that many people ingest the drug without knowing what it is. It is commonly sold as THC (the active ingredient in marijuana) and mixed with marijuana without the knowledge of the user. Its effects can be deadly. All efforts must be made to educate our young people and the public at large as to the tragic consequences of the use of angel dust.

## ALCOHOL

"But alcohol, there seems to be an increase in incidence of alcohol abusing teenagers. Alcohol, of course, is a highly impairing substance. It impairs alertness, judgment and motor functions. Chronic effects of alcohol that are well known can produce serious diseases in many organs of the body when used chronically over a period of years. I think the increase incidence of alcohol use in teenagers will certainly take its toll in later years in increased incidence of diseases associated with chronic alcohol use."

(Director of Psychiatric Services, a major N.J. Hospital)

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We find that while the evidence among individual municipalities in Essex County may be conflicting to some extent, generally speaking, the use of alcohol appears to be on the increase among our young. There is further evidence that alcohol is being used more by younger children than ever before.

Alcohol among the young is generally used outside of a school situation. It is obvious that to conceal a bottle would be a difficult situation in a school setting.

There is evidence that many students combine the use of alcohol and marijuana. The effects of habitual use of either among the young is destructive and a combined use can only double the danger.

The general focus of this Grand Jury has been on drug abuse, exclusive of alcohol. We could not be blind, however, to the

problem of alcohol abuse among our young. Many experts, police, and educators, have testified as to its use and as to its dangerous effects on our young. Alcohol must be recognized as a drug of abuse and must be thought of in terms of a problem to be attacked and eliminated.



Question: 'Another phenomena we are coming in contact with is that many of the parents evidently have no knowledge of what is happening with their children, and many are just becoming acquainted with things such as drug paraphernalia, the head shops and that sort of thing, is that a national trend as well?

Answer: Yes, head shops gross volume has increased about 30 percent since 1975. We made a study, a staff study of it and it is alarming because head shops are now going into shopping centers in the suburbs and various other areas where they had never appeared before. Heretofore, they were pretty well restricted to areas of the City where you would find massage parlors and other questionable activities, but now you are finding paraphernalia out in the suburbs and in the rural areas. This is a national trend. In my judgment, Congress is going to have to do something about the inter-state shipment of paraphernalia such as cocaine spoons and tokes for marijuana and so on. All this is in aid of a culture that does not help kids learn, all it does is interfere with their proper bringing up and the proper growing up."

(Official, House Select Committee on Drug Abuse)

We feel a special word must be said concerning head shops or shops that sell or distribute drug paraphernalia. These establishments sell such items as cocaine kits used for the cutting and ingestion of cocaine, test kits that test the quality of cocaine, bongs and rolling paper for the use of marijuana, pipes for the use of hashish, pipes for the smoking of marijuana in motor vehicles and items used to hide drugs from parents or police. These items are attractively displayed and advertised. They attract the young and the very young. There are frisbies that double as roach holders and ray guns that can be used to smoke marijuana. These items are obviously aimed at the youth trade.

The head shops stand as a monument to hypocrisy in our society. Our sense of right and wrong is offended by the selling of paraphernalia that in effect aids and abets in the commission of crimes. What can our children think about our laws, about our commitment to their healthful development, when they see the adult society making millions of dollars on the sale of such paraphernalia?

In many ways those who prey upon the weaknesses of others are much more pitiful than the weak. We have a situation where persons who deal in narcotic paraphernalia have formed associations and lobbying groups to protect their pecuniary interests. We denounce this. We are not afraid to attack vested interest groups whose only concern is for the almighty dollar and care not at all for the health and welfare of our country.

We, therefore, ask that all persons who are concerned about the health and welfare of our children recognize the harm that is occurring to our young by the existence of the head shops. We ask that all persons engaged in such business voluntarily cease and desist from selling drug paraphernalia of any kind. We ask that if this request is not voluntarily complied with that law enforcement officers take the appropriate action in stopping said sales. While this body has, in fact, indicted two head shops under the New Jersey State Public Nuisance Statute, and has been gratified that said shops discontinued all sales of narcotic paraphernalia while pleading guilty to a reduced charge, we ask that the New Jersey legislature enact meaningful regulations directed specifically toward the sale of drug paraphernalia.

We understand that in a free society we have to accept different view points and opinions than our own. We do not intend to sound repressive or mean to infringe upon any First Amendment rights, but our concern is for the health and welfare of the young. The youth have a right to be protected from harm of any kind, and we have a responsibility to speak out and demand action when harm becomes real and evident.

We ask those of you who would be concerned with restriction of free trade in a free society to weigh in your own minds; where does the greater responsibility lie, in protecting the earning power of a few whose wares are questionable at best, or to protect the future of our children?

While testifying before this Grand Jurors an official of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, H.E.W., referred to society's overall responsibility for committing itself towards finding a solution for the problem of juvenile drug abuse.

"It means that we have to use more than just one institution, we can't just turn it over to the schools and say, you do it. We've got to involve our families, our churches, the schools. We've got to involve community action groups. We have to start looking at what the characteristics of people who succumb to this behavior. We've got years of data that says self image of the drug abuser is the problem. We have years of data that say those people that go dysfunctional, don't have a good basic set of coping skills, how to make it in this society, and we have data that shows that when the values that are held by parents are concurred in very highly by youngsters, they have an amazing ability to resist drug abuse. And, in our society which has become very complex and has many inputs now for the youngsters, the ability to transmit our life values from one generation to another has come under a lot of attack because of this media business, movies, television, et cetera, so that the child gets a lot of choice as to which set of values they should take. I think we're going to have to get back and think out, think through precisely how do I transmit my beliefs and my life values to my children, and how do I help other people do that?

These are all the things that we hold very dear to ourselves. there are many areas where we don't want "Government" intruding, and yet, I think somehow government has to encourage the people to take these issues on and be helpful in doing that without becoming a big brother in controlling this behavior."

The evidence indicated in the preceding pages is clearly indicative of the fact that a most serious drug problem exists among teen and pre-teenage children in Essex County. We have heard from

117 witnesses, and have been able to ascertain generally the extent of the problem: but we feel we have barely scratched the surface in observing the totality of the problem, and understanding its tragic implications.

The sad fact is that when confronted with drug abuse among our young, society seems confused and in a state of disarray. We hope that after reading this presentment all people will recognize that the responsibility for our youth does not lie with one specialized segment of society. The failure to confront the drug problem is a failure of society as a whole. Meaningful measures must be taken by the combined and concerted efforts of all the people whom we call our "society". The schools, parents, elected officials, police and the young themselves must all join together in doing everything possible to eliminate the problem.

We ask school authorities, elected officials and legislators, after reviewing our recommendations, to consult with the foremost experts in the field of youth and drug abuse and to gather the expertise from all elements of this country in order to eliminate once and for all the tragic consequences of drug abuse among our young.

As a starting point we suggest the following experts should be consulted:

Pat Joyner, Coordinator of Drug Coordination, Newark Board of Education

Dr. Daniel O'Connell, Director of Psychiatric Services,  
Overlook Hospital, Summit, New Jersey

Carl J. Besterman, Director National Institute on Drug  
Abuse

Dr. Fred Streit, Research Psychologist Consultant - House  
Select Committee on Narcotics

George Richardson and Ingrid Frank, National Committee for  
a Sane Drug Policy

Joseph Nellis, Counsel for the House Select Committee on  
Drug Abuse

#### Education:

We ask that drug education in our school systems begin at that period of time when a juvenile is most open to the learning process. We ask that drug education begin at kindergarten, approached in a manner appropriate to that grade level and continue every year through high school. We ask that this become mandatory throughout the State of New Jersey.

We ask that these drug programs be integrated with the regular curriculum of the lower grades and that special courses be taught when appropriate throughout the later years. We ask that all those teachers who are involved in the teaching of drug courses be given the fullest education themselves in order to fully understand and be able to teach their subject. We ask that these teachers be given courses yearly in order to understand the latest information concerning drug abuse among our young. We ask that this be mandatory for all teachers in our school systems.

We further ask and recommend that all school principals and administrators enroll in drug education courses every year so that they may be in a better position to evaluate and determine the extent of their problem. We ask that this be mandatory throughout the State. We ask that N.J.S. 18A:4-28.5 et seq. be amended to reflect all of the above. We ask that school administrators understand the necessary role police authorities must play in drug prevention, and adopt appropriate measures to cooperate fully with local police departments.

We ask that parents be brought into the educational process as much as possible to share in the learning process of their children. These programs might be extended to include whole family life programs, where the drug problem may be seen and treated as part of a larger situation, that of adolescent development in general. We ask that the following objectives be met:

School Administrators

1. Make every effort to obtain information about the drug problem in the nation, community and school.
2. Develop and promote programs to combat local drug abuse.
3. Provide for exchange of information with other school administrations in their drug abuse efforts.
4. Gain the confidence of the teaching staff and support them in their efforts to identify drug abusers.
5. Establish an open door policy with local police departments and cooperate fully with them concerning drug investigations.

### Teachers

1. Better increase their knowledge of the drug problem in general.
2. Develop the ability to recognize personality problems among students relating to drug abuse.
3. Develop an increased awareness of the nature of the youth-drug subculture.
4. Develop the ability to recognize symptoms of drug abuse.
5. Develop an overall understanding of the effects of drugs on children.

### Parents

1. Increase parental awareness of the nature and scope of drug abuse in the nation and local community.
2. Recognize symptoms of drug abuse.
3. Develop the ability to recognize personal problems relating to drug abuse.
4. Encourage parental education regarding drugs in the home which have an abuse potential.

### Students

1. Learn thoroughly the effects of drug abuse of all kinds.
2. Recognize symptoms of drug abuse.
3. Develop the ability to recognize personality problems that could lead to drug abuse.
4. Direct peer pressure to encourage an anti-drug position among fellow students.

### Judiciary and the Law

We recognize the fact that one of the most awesome responsibilities of members of the bench is in the sentencing of convicted



criminals. There is a natural human reluctance to place persons behind bars, to take away that most precious of democratic concepts, freedom. We are, however, a nation of laws, and we cannot ignore the great responsibility of any democratic society, that of giving the people adequate protection to allow them to follow the noble pursuits of life, liberty and happiness. Drug pushers are destroying our right to safe and secure streets and schools, destroying the happiness that this nation should provide, and destroying the lives of our young. Society must be protected from the drug pushers. It is a responsibility of our judges, upon sentencing convicted drug dealers, when the facts and circumstances warrant, to place these individuals where they can no longer harm society.

A problem seems to exist whereby some judges recognize the deadly consequences of drug dealing while others do not. Penalties for dealing drugs often depend on what judge a convicted offender appears before. Application of the penalties of our drug laws has become unequal and, therefore, unacceptable. We, therefore, recommend:

1. All judges be exposed to educational processes where they can learn the consequences of drug sales and the corresponding problems of drug abuse.
2. That there be one narcotic sentencing judge for every county; said system will allow that judge to better recognize repeated offenders, to understand fully the situation in the streets and to apply the law equally.

3. In the alternative we ask that special narcotic courts be instituted in each county that will hear only narcotic cases, thereby giving one or two judges the needed expertise and exposure to better deal with specific problems and sentencing.
4. When the facts and circumstances warrant, drug dealers should be punished to the full extent of the law.

Under the current law, marijuana, a non-narcotic, schedule one drug has a penalty of five years maximum imprisonment for possession of over twenty-five grams, and five years maximum imprisonment for distribution and possession with intent to distribute. We find it totally ludicrous, that theoretically a person in possession of one thousand pounds of marijuana, which would obviously be distributed at great profit, would be exposed to the same maximum sentence as a person with twenty-eight grams of marijuana, which is obviously for his own use. We recommend, therefore, that the penalty for possession with intent to distribute and distribution as opposed to simple possession be made commensurate with the type of danger to society that is involved.

We further recommend:

That the office of the Superintendent of Schools of Essex County be utilized in order to centralize and focus the fight against teen and pre-teen drug abuse. While we recognize that concept of local autonomy is valid and necessary in dealing with educational

curricula, we are convinced that although some differences exist within local communities, all schools in the County of Essex have a similarly severe drug problem. We feel that the office of the Superintendent of Schools in Essex County is the logical focal point to compile data and to generally supervise the drug efforts of the local systems.

We recommend that data concerning the current drug efforts in each municipality be made available to the office of the Superintendent of Schools and a conference be immediately set-up with the Superintendent of Schools of Essex County, all local superintendents, local police representatives and the Essex County Prosecutor's Office and any drug and educational experts as may be invited in order to develop a unified concept of drug education.

We further recommend:

That the juvenile laws of the State be reviewed in order to provide greater emphasis and means toward a solution to the problem of juvenile drug abuse.

We further recommend:

That the Essex County Prosecutor's Office contact the responsible elected officials and a representative from the parent-teacher association in each school district in the county, and report to them as to the nature of their juvenile drug problem, and as to

the attitudes and understandings of that problem by the local school officials.

We further recommend:

That one year from the date of this presentment the Essex County Prosecutor's Office be prepared to present facts and evidence to the Assignment Judge in order to ascertain the necessity of impaneling a Special Grand Jury to fully investigate and report as to the extent of the drug abuse situation among juveniles in Essex County; to ascertain what efforts have been made by the county, local communities and school officials to act upon these Grand Jury recommendations, and to formulate their own course of action for eliminating the drug problem.

We further recommend:

That all advertisers, readers and viewers of media of any kind voluntarily boycott any television shows, motion pictures and/or publications that treat the drug problem or advertise drug paraphernalia in any manner that would cause harm to our juvenile population.

## FINAL WORD

"I said earlier that the Federal Government's effort in the field of drug abuse prevention is a disaster. The House Select Committee on narcotics report for a year ago, said very specifically, on documented states that the National Institute on Drug Abuse effort in prevention is moribund, and after I looked it up in the dictionary, it means in a deadlike state. It's the most accurate portrayal I have ever read because they are doing nothing. They have no longer any grants. There's very little going on. They're pushing to get it cut, and they're going nowhere."

(drug abuse expert, member, panel for the Special Action Office of the White House).

The above statement by one of America's foremost experts on drug abuse, can be attributed as well to the State of New Jersey, County of Essex and local municipalities, and school districts.

We hope we have presented to the public enough evidence to alert and alarm them to the great danger that is facing our young. The fact simply is that little, if anything, is being done about this unprecedented situation. We are in a crisis situation and we must garner all of our resources to overcome that crisis. Our greatest fear is that lip-service and short-term reaction will be the result of this presentment. We feel a ranking member of the National Institute on Drug Abuse stated the problem succinctly when he said:

"When we, as a society, first discover a problem, we give it a lot of publicity, a lot of noise in our media, and in our personal anxiety about it, and we insist that government

or somebody do something right now.

In terms of drug issues, we went through that era in the late 60's and very early 70's, but we also, as a society have a very poor record of being persistent. If we can't have a solution quickly, if something has a tendency to be slightly chronic in our society, then we prefer that people not bring it up to us, and that we push it aside. I think we've done that...

It is a labor intensive solution. It means that we, as citizens, have to invest of our own time and get a lot of other citizens to invest with us to change behavior in our society, and probably a solution, or at least a partial solution will take place over a decade".

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We do not expect a solution to the tragic consequences of drug abuse among our young overnight. We also do not expect the problem to be forgotten after a short outcry. The solution will take dedication and commitment. It is something that can be done, it is something that must be done.

## DISTRIBUTION

The Grand Jury directs that copies of this presentment be distributed to the following:

### A. Federal Government

1. House Select Committee on Drug Abuse
2. National Institute on Drug Abuse
3. United States Attorney General, Griffin Bell
4. President of the United States Senate, Walter F. Mondale
5. Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Thomas T. O'Neill Jr.
6. Director Drug Enforcement Administration, Peter Bensinger
7. National Committee for a Sane Drug Policy

### B. State Government - Executive Branch

1. Governor, State of New Jersey, Brendan T. Byrne
2. New Jersey State Attorney General, John Degnan
3. New Jersey Commissioner of Education, Fred G. Burke

### C. State Government - Legislative Branch

1. The six senators and twelve assemblymen representing Essex County
2. President of Senate, Joseph P. Merlino
3. Speaker of General Assembly, Christopher J. Jackman
4. Law Revision and Legislative Services Commission - Chief Counsel
5. All County Prosecutors

D. State Government - Judicial Branch

1. Chief Justice Richard J. Hughes, New Jersey Supreme Court
2. All members of the bench currently assigned to the County of Essex, State of New Jersey

E. Essex County Government

1. Essex County Executive, Peter I. Shapiro
2. Chairperson, Pearl Beatty, and Members of the Board of Chosen Freeholders
3. Superintendent of Essex County Board of Education, Howard G. White, Jr.
4. Essex County Counsel, Peter Stewart

F. Essex County Municipalities

1. Mayors and/or Chief Executives of every municipality in the County of Essex
2. Presidents of the Board of Education of every school system in the County of Essex
3. Chiefs of Police of every police agency in the County of Essex
4. Presidents of all Parent - Teacher Associations

G. Party Officials

1. Chairman of the State and Essex County Democratic and Republican Committees

H. Representatives of national, state and local media

Respectfully submitted on this 7th day of March

1979, by the Sixth Essex County Grand Jury of the 1978 Term

  
MALCOLM B. MERKLINGER, FOREMAN